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## Message from the Mayor

During a Youth Rally for Peace on Freedom Plaza in Northwest, I declared June 13 "DC Youth for Peace Day" and signed a "Pledge for Peace" urging young people to work to halt violence in their communities and across the city.

The Youth Rally for Peace is an outgrowth of regular meetings I have hosted with Peaceoholics, Inc. and students from Ballou Senior High School. Before addressing the youth gathered, I took an informal poll of the youngsters at Freedom Plaza. I asked them to raise their hands if they have been a victim of violence or had a family member or close friend who was a victim of violence. Nearly all of the youngsters raised their hands.

Then, I asked them a question: "Of those of you who raised your hand, how many of you want peace in your neighborhoods and across our city?" All of them raised their hands.

When I think about all the young people who have lost their lives to violence in our city, I am saddened. I'm saddened because we have lost generations of greatness. We have lost youth who one day would have been doctors, lawyers, fathers and mothers.

Our goal now is to turn the corner on violence and rally for peace. Our goal now is for our youth who are pledging peace to take charge of their communities and end the cycle of violence.

Working hard in this campaign to end the cycle of violence is our Metropolitan Police Department, through its 2005 Safe Summer Campaign.

On June 7, officers from the 6th and 7th Police Districts began conducting safety tours—taking public safety messages to local elementary, middle, junior high and senior high schools and graduation ceremonies.

They're talking to students of all ages about making wise choices and creating a climate of accountability. I encourage you all to listen and embrace what they have to say.

At my last regular meeting with Ballou High School students, I promised to call on members of my administration to mentor a youth. Last week I called on all of the adults of our city to commit to mentoring a young person. Our children's future is in our hands. We cannot rest—we must not rest—until our neighborhoods and all of our children are safe.



# Hollywood Is Coming to the District

More television series work is coming to the District—and that means a higher profile for our city and increased revenue to help fund our vital social services needs.

Overall, business is making a comeback after a lull incurred by security measures put into place following September 11, 2001, which limited or restricted filmmaking in some of the city's most popular locations. The staff at the District's Office of Motion Picture and Television Development (OMPTD) – led by Director Crystal Palmer – have learned to work within the confines of heavy security imposed after September 11 so that the city can get its fair share of lucrative production dollars.

The District will be featured as the "silent star" this fall on Fox Television's "Bones," NBC-TV's "E-Ring" and ABC-TV's "Commander-in-Chief." Filming for these series took place last spring for broadcast this fall.

## Commander-in-Chief

Created by the acclaimed writer/director of the Oscar-nominated film, "The Contender," the series focuses on Mackenzie Allen, who has a lot on her plate. She has twin teenagers and a six-year-old at home, an ambitious husband at the office, and she is about to become the first female President of the United States. Geena Davis, Harry J. Lennix, Ever Carradine, Kyle Secor, Julie Ann Emery, Donald Sutherland star.

## E-Ring

"CSI" Producer Jerry Bruckheimer, Oscar-nominated Director Taylor Hackford, and actors Dennis Hopper and Benjamin Bratt join forces in this drama set inside the Pentagon. It's a hub of highly explosive conflicts between American military heroes and the civilians to whom they report -- a world where crises can escalate into life-and-death climaxes, for individuals or entire nations. Viewers witness critical decisions by intelligence officers in the war room and the execution of these decisions by covert special ops on the battlefield.

## Bones

Emily Deschanel stars in this drama pilot about a team of forensic anthropologists who solve crimes using evidence supplied by skeletal remains. She'll play Temperance Brennan, the leader of the team in this 20th Century Fox Television-based project. David Boreanaz and Michaela Conlin also star in the pilot, which comes from executive producers Barry Josephson and Hart Hanson and is based on the "Brennan" novels by Kathy Reichs.

# Smoking Ban Legislation

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, I am very concerned about second-hand smoke in public places. This issue has clearly sparked passionate debate among District residents and within the business community during the past year.

The record shows that making eating and drinking establishments smoke-free, as has been done in other major cities, does not cause loss of patrons, reductions in revenue or any loss to business.

Two years ago, I was fully opposed to a smoking ban, because the District unlike other cities and states relies so heavily on its hospitality industry. I have reconsidered my position in light of new information and join with the Council in implementing a reasonable smoking ban in public places and workplaces in the District of Columbia.

Since 2003, Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Maine – have enacted 100 percent smoking bans in restaurants and bars. Additionally, Florida and Idaho have joined them in implementing 100 percent smokefree policies for restaurants, although freestanding bars are exempt.

This means that – along with California, Delaware, Oregon, and Utah – there are now 11 states that have implemented 100 percent smokefree policies in restaurants and bars. This does not take into account the approximately 2,000 local jurisdictions that have followed suit.

Major metropolitan areas like Boston, Dallas, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York City, San Diego, and San Francisco have enacted 100 percent smokefree policies in restaurants, bars or both.

What is being proposed in the District of Columbia is not new or isolated by any means. What is important is that we consider the experiences of these other jurisdictions as we look to enact such policies in the District. What we have learned from jurisdictions that have enacted smoking bans is that the economic impact has not been negative as some had feared. I will continue to work closely with the Council to evaluate the information received and work on a consensus basis should legislation be advanced.



# The District's Heat Emergency Plan

Summer is upon us and on days when the "heat index" reaches 95 degrees Fahrenheit, the District government implements a heat emergency plan.

The heat index is an accurate measure of how hot it really feels when the effects of humidity are added to high temperature. The city's heat plan was developed by the DC Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with other city and private agencies.

The heat emergency plan allows for cooling centers to open for District residents at One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street, NW) and at the Frank D. Reeves Center (2000 14th Street, NW).

The DC Energy Office, through its Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, has a limited number of fans for distribution to District households that meet the following criteria:

- Have at least one member age 5 or below, or
- Have at least one member age 60 or above, or
- Have at last one member who has a documented respiratory condition or a statement from a doctor or medical facility describing a need for some type of cooling assistance
- Eligible households must also meet the federal income guidelines for energy assistance. For more information, contact the DC Energy Office Hotline at (202) 673-6750.

Additionally, the DC Energy Office will give households replacement air conditioners if they meet the following criteria:

- Have at least one member who has a documented respiratory condition or a statement from a doctor or medical facility describing a need for some type of cooling assistance
- Eligible households must also meet the federal income guidelines for energy assistance. For more information, contact the DC Energy Office Hotline at (202) 673-6750.

Also, the DC Energy Office will provide a \$50 rebate to District residents who purchase an Energy Star-rated air conditioner. Proof of purchase must be sent to the DC Energy Office. For more information, contact the DC Energy Office Hotline at (202) 673-6750.

As part of the heat emergency plan, vans canvass various areas throughout the city to identify persons suffering from the heat and transport them to cooling centers. Persons who need transportation to cooling centers may call a hotline at 1-(800)-535-7252.

## Project Labor Agreement for Anacostia Ballpark

Last week, I joined labor officials at RFK Stadium to announce a "state of the art" partnership between the city and the unions representing workers who will build the new baseball stadium on the Anacostia River. This new ballpark will mean new opportunities for minority owned business and hundreds of new good-paying jobs for District residents.

So far, the return of Major League Baseball has been a resounding success in the Nation's Capital: our team is in first place. People are talking about the "Nats" in cafes, on the Metro, and at home. Attendance at RFK is exceeding expectations. In short, our vision is coming to fruition.

The Project Labor Agreement that we announced features a partnership among the city, workers who will build our new ballpark on the Anacostia, and our unions. The agreement does many things:

- It guarantees a certain percent of the work on the new ballpark will go to minority contractors;
- It ensures that many of the workers hired are District residents;
- It offers a great chance for youth and unskilled workers to learn valuable trades;
- The agreement calls for unskilled apprentices to be hired at the launch of the project--when it's complete they will be certified journeymen.

I am confident that through this agreement, we are fulfilling the promise of economic growth, new jobs and opportunities for our District residents.

This is an exciting time for the District.

Baseball is back. And we are using the return of baseball to help "lift all communities" across our city.



## District Activities



Mayor Williams is joined by students from Bruce Elementary School to kick-off the DC Free Summer Meals program. Mayor Williams presented a proclamation in recognition of the DC Summer Meals Program.



Mayor Williams chats with Senator Barack Obama (D-III) during a graduation reception for students in the District of Columbia College Access Program (DC CAP).



Mayor Williams enjoys lunch with students from Shepard Elementary School at Ben's Chili Bowl. The students recently toured museums in Washington, DC and are studying the city's history. As part of an auction to raise money for library renovations, students won a lunch with the Mayor.



Mayor Williams was on hand for the unveiling of a plaque celebrating the renaming of the Motion Picture Association of America Building at 1600 I Street, NW. The building has been renamed the Jack Valenti Building to honor the former CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America.

## Community News

- [Mayor Williams Testifies on Local Budget](#)
- [Mayor Nominates JoAnne Ginsberg to School Board](#)
- [Supreme Court Decision on Eminent Domain Case a Victory for Local Governments](#)

[View All News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

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|--------------------|--|
| <b>6/22 – 7/1</b>  | <b>40 Days of Increased Peace</b><br>"40 Days of Increased Peace" is a series of free events, activities and services targeted to youth and young adults as alternatives to violence, sponsored by the Metropolitan Police Department and the East of the River Clergy Police Community Partnership.<br><b>Contact:</b> (202) 727-1000 |
| <b>6/25 – 6/26</b> | <b>National Capital Barbecue Battle</b><br>Pennsylvania Avenue, NW<br>Between 9th and 14th Streets<br><b>Contact:</b> (202) 828-3099   |
| <b>6/30</b>        | <b>Summer Kick-off</b><br>10 am – 3 pm<br>Anacostia Park<br>1800 Anacostia Drive, SE<br><b>Contact:</b> (202) 698-2250 or (202) 463-6211   |

